

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 SAM-01 SAB-01 SAJ-01 SSM-03

IO-13 OMB-01 ORM-02 DHA-02 /094 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1454

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 49

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

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CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 6827

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION AUG, 6: CHRISTIANS CLEAN UP AT
NABAA; CEASEFIRE ONLY SLIGHTLY SUCCESSFUL; SOFAR MEETING
POSTPONED.

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REF: BEIRUT 685##

1. SUMMARY: CHRISTIAN MILITIAS MOVE DECISIVELY INTO NABAA BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER AUGUST 5 CEASEFIRE. PARTIAL OBSERVANCE OF CEASEFIRE ELSEWHERE, BUT CONTINUED ARTILLERY FIRE IN MOUNTAINS, AIN-RUMANNEH, TELL ZAATAR, NABAA AND, TO LESSER DEGREE, ALONG BEIRUT CONFRONTATION LINE. MEETING UNDER SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT SCHEDULED AT SOFAR POSTPONED, BUT ALL PARTIES HAVE NAMED DELEGATIONS. THIRD TELL ZAATAR EVACUATION PLANNED FOR AUGUST 6 TO BE ON SMALLER SCALE. SOME SIGNS OF CHRISTIAN-SYRIAN TENSION AT ZAHLE. CHAMOUN CLAIMS SIGNIFICANT IRAQI INVOLVEMENT IN BEIRUT FIGHTING. KARAME STATES CONDITIONS FOR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING. ISLAMIC GROUP ISSUES STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND ACTION PROGRAM. NATIONAL UNITY FRONT REPORTS STEPS TOWARD REESTABLISHMENT OF NORMALCY. JUNBLATT COMMENTS ON SISCO REMARKS. END SUMMARY.

2. FALL OF NABAA. AFTER SURRENDER OF SEVERAL LEBANESE LEFTIST LEADERS AND NUMBER OF THEIR FIGHTERS ON AUGUST 4, MAJOR RIGHTIST PUSH INTO NABAA HAS VIRTUALLY ELIMINATED RESISTANCE. ONE LEFTIST LEADER WHO HAD SURRENDERED, LT. CHEATO, HAS BEEN MADE NEW MILITARY LIAISON BETWEEN NATIONAL LIBERALS AND LEFTISTS STILL IN AREA. ANOTHER, LT. MAWLA, WAS RECEIVED BY FRANGIE HIMSELF, AND IS SAID TO BE IN CHARGE OF SHIITE POPULATION IN AROA. A THIRD, AHMED SAFOUANE, IS BEING GIVEN SAFE CONDUCT TO DAMASCUS AT HIS OWN REQUEST. KATAEB LEADER AMIN GEMAYEL ESTIMATED CIVIL POPULATION IN AREA AT 3000 AND PALESTINIAN FIGHTERS AT BETWEEN 500 AND 600, BUT DID NOT SAY HOW MANY HAD SURRENDERED. REMAINING RESISTANCE APPEARS CONCENTRAATED IN EASTERN PART OF NABAA BORDERING ON RIGHTIST-HELD AREA OF SIN EL-FIL. CASUALTIES NIGHT OF AUGUST 4-5 ESTIMATED AT 70 KILLED, 150 WOUNDED. LEFTISTS CLAIMED FIGHTING CONTINUING AUGUST 5, BUT AL-MUHARRIR AUGUST 6 SAYS NABAA HAS FALLEN AND THOSE REMAINING EITHER WERE SEEKING THEIR WAY TO TELL ZAATAR OR HAVE SOUGHT REFUGE WITH ARMENIANS IN BOURJ HAMMOUD.

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3. OTHER MILITARY FRONTS. CEASEFIRE IS BEING PARTIALLY OBSERVED. SYRIANS APPEAR TO HAVE STOPPED THEIR ADVANCE IN NORTH. METN CAMPAIGN STILL IN STALEMATE, WITH CHRISTIANS LACKING FORCES NEEDED TO PURSUE DRIVE, BUT ARTILLERY FIRE CONTINUES. IN JEZZINE AREA, CHRISTIANS WHO LEFT IN WAKE OF SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM SIDON TWO WEEKS AGO CONTINUE

PUSHING BACK INTO THEIR VILLAGES, WITH SOME SYRIAN ARTILLERY SUPPORT. ARTILLERY AND MACHINE GUN FIRE NIGHT OF AUGUST 5-6 IN GALLERY SIM'AN AREA, TELL ZAATAR, NABAA AND AIN EL-RUMANNEH. CONFRONTATION LINE IN BEIRUT ALSO BOMBARDED, BUT MUCH LESS THAN NIGHT OF AUGUST 4-5.

4. SOFAR MEETING ABORTED. KFOUR FRONT, IN MEETING EARLY AUGUST 5, COULD NOT AGREE TO SEND DELEGATION TO SOFAR, FINDING LOCATION INAPPROPRIATE, SUGGESTING INSTEAD, EITHER YARZE, MANSOUR PALACE OR DAMASCUDU KFOUR FRONT DID HOWEVER CONFIRM ITS MEMBERSHIP ON COMMITTEE, TO INCLUDE DANY CHAMOUN, MAROUN HELOU, BASHIR GEMAYEL AND KARIM PAKRADOUNI. JUNBLATTIS NAME THEIR DELEGATION, TO INCLUDE INAAM RAAD (POPULAR SYRIAN PARTY), KHALIL CHEHAB (PROGRESSIVE SOCIALIST PARTY), SAMIR SABBAGH (INDEPENDENT NASSERISTS), HIKMAT EID (COMMUNIST ACTION ORGANIZATION), AND LAA CAPTAINS NAGI HASSAN AND AHMED ADDAM. JUNBLATTIS PROPOSE COMMITTEE SHOULD MEET IN CAIRM. THEY DEMAND THAT FOUR ARAB LEAGUE COUNTRIES WITH FORCES IN LEBANON SHOULD ALSO BE REPRESENTED AND THAT POLITICAL QUESTIONS SHOULD NOT BE ADDRESSED BY COMMITTEE BUT RATHER LEFT TO LEBANESE PARTIES.

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5. TELL ZAATAR. ICRC PLANS THIRD EVACUATION EFFORT AT TELL ZAATAR AUGUST 6, WITH TWO CONVOYS, ONE FROM WEST BEIRUT (ONE AUTOMOBILE, ONE TRUCK AND ONE AMBULANCE) AND THE OTHER STARTING FROM JOUNIE (ONE AUTOMOBILE, ONE AMBULANCE AND NINE TRUCKS). CONVOY BEGINNING IN EASTERN SECTOR TO BE UNDER NLP
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PROTECTION. IT NOT CLEAR WHETHER SECOND CONVOY WILL CARRY WOUNDED TO WEST OR EAST BEIRUT. RED CROSS ENCOUNTERED CROWD CONTROL PROBLEMS WITH LARGE NUMBERS ON AUGUST 4, THEREFORE PLANS TAKE OUT ONLY 100-150 AUGUST 6, HOPES COMPLETE OPERATION BY 1239 LOCAL. WE HEAR THAT SOME PALESTIAN FIGHTERS IN CAMP HOPE THAT EVACUATIONS WILL RELIEVE THEM OF BURDEN AND ENHANCE THEIR MILITARY POSITION.

6. KFOUR FRONT ACTIVITIES. IN ADDITION TO QUESTION OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN QUADRIPARTITE CEASEFIRE COMMITTEE (PARA 4), KFOUR LEADERS AUGUST 5 ALSO REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED PROBLEMS THAT HAVE ARISEN BETWEEN LOCAL POPULATION AND SYRIAN FORCES AT ZAHLE. RADICAL LEBANESE ARMY COLONEL ALBERT MUNAYYIR (FORMER G-4, WHO IS ACCUSED OF DIVERTING LEBANESE ARMY AMMUNITION TO THE KATAEB LAST YEAR) AND MAJOR TARIQ NUJAIM ATTENDED MEETING AND DEMANDED THAT KFOUR FRONT TAKE CLEAR STAND ON QUESTION OF SYRIAN OCCUPATION. CAMILLE CHAMOUN CHARGED THAT SOME 150 IRAQI TROOPS HAD ATTACKED HIS MILITIA IN AREA OF GALERIE SEMAAN AUGUST 4, THAT 30 IRAQIS HAD BEEN KILLED AND TWO CAPTURED. HE ALLEGED THEY HAD ARRIVED DAY BEFORE VIA PORT OF TYRE,

FROM EGYPT. RADIO AMCHITE AUGUST 6 RAISED NUMBER OF IRAQIS TO 500. AN-NAHAR SAYS SIX IRAQIS QERE CAPTURED, AS WELL AS TWO LIBYANS.

7. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING. PRIME MINISTER KARAME HAS INDICATED HE WILL ATTEND A MEETING OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS PROVIDED THAT (1) HE IS CONSULTED ON AGENDA; (2) FRANGIE RECONSIDER HIS EARLIER DISMISSAL OF PHILLIP TAKLA AS FOREIGN MINISTER; AND (3) FRANGIE END HIS ASSOCIATION WITH KFOUR FRONT. KFOUR FRONT REPORTEDLY ITSELF IS STILL DEBATING IDEA OF ANOTHER MEETING.

8. DOMESTIC POLITICAL ACTIVITY: SUNNI ISLAMIC LEAGUE PRESIDENT CHAFIC WAZZAN ANNOUNCED WORKING PAPER OF GROUP, CALLING FOR PARLIAMENTARY REPUBLIC WITHIN PRESENT BORDERS; END TO POLITICAL CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFESSIONALISM; SOCIAL JUSTICE; AND SUPPORT OF PALESTINIAN CAUSE "WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY AND SECURITY." RAYMOND EDDE'S NATIONAL UNITY FRONT PROPOSED FOLLOWING STEPS: (1) PRIME MINISTER KARAME TO ESTABLISH HIS OFFICE IN WEST BEIRUT; (2) HISHAM SHA'AR, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INTERNAL SECURITY, TO REACTIVATE NATIONAL GENDARMERIE; (3) AMIN BEYHUM, PRESIDENT OF BEIRUT MUNICIPALITY, TO REACTIVATE BEIRUT CITY ADMINISTRATION; AND (4) RETURN OF CONTROL OF MILITARY STRONG-POINTS TO LEBANESE AUTHORITIES. NATIONAL UNITY FRONT DISAPPROVES OF JUNBLATT'S ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH LOCAL ADMINISTRATION AND APPROVES OF A MEETING BETWEEN SAEB SALAM (AN NUF MEMBER) AND PIERRE GEMAYEL, WHICH MAY TAKE PLACE WITHIN NEXT TWO DAYS.

9. JUNBLATT ON SISCO. JUNBLATT COMMENTED EXTENSIVELY ON REMARKS ON ISRAELI RADIO ATTRIBUTED TO FORMER UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE SISCO, SAYING THAT U.S. IS TRYING TO USE ITS "NEW FRIENDS" (SYRIA) TO WEAKEN PLO, TO THEREBY IMPOSE SOLUTION TO MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM GUARANTEEING STATE OF ISRAEL. HUNO

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